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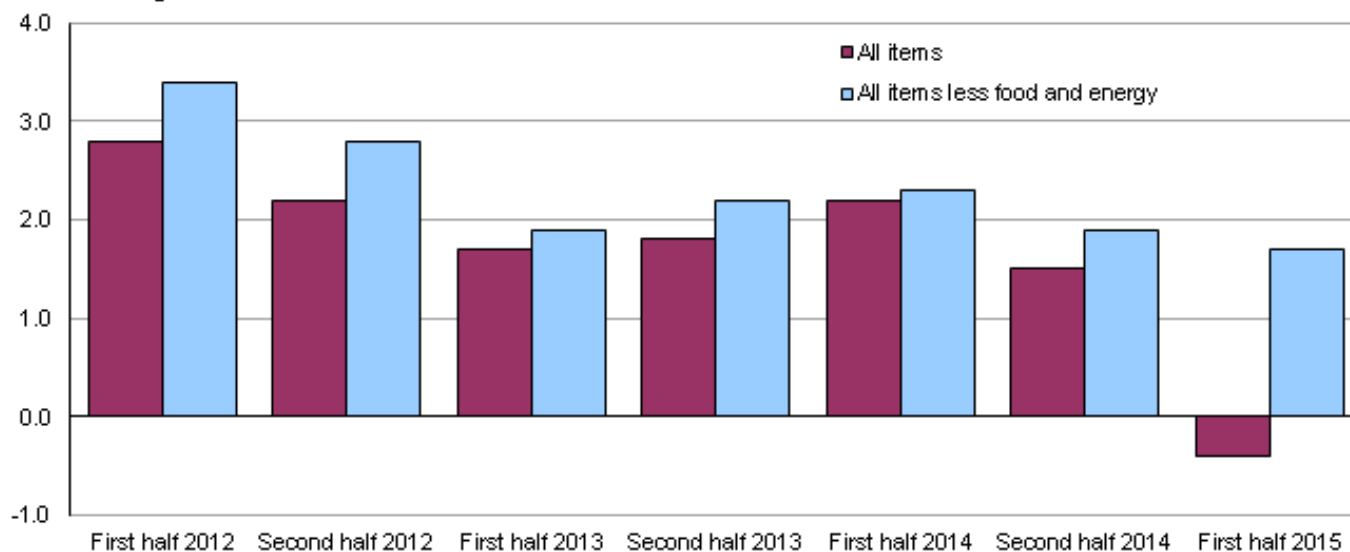
Consumer Price Index, Cincinnati-Hamilton – First Half 2015

Local prices down 0.4 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Cincinnati-Hamilton area declined 0.4 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the all items less food and energy index was 1.7 percent higher compared to its first half 2014 level as price increases were noted for several categories, most notably shelter. Food prices rose 1.6 percent over the year while the index for energy decreased 19.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Cincinnati, first half 2012–first half 2015

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 1.6 percent from their first half 2014 levels. Within the food category, the index for food at home (groceries) was 1.9 percent higher while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were up 1.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index fell 19.2 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015. Within the energy category, the index for gasoline was down 30.3 percent compared to its first half 2014 level. The indexes for electricity and utility (piped) gas service declined 3.4 percent and 5.1 percent, respectively, over the year.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index increased 1.7 percent over the year. Among the index's components, higher costs were recorded for shelter (2.6 percent), medical care (2.7 percent), and apparel (3.5 percent). Prices declined 1.8 percent for education and communication over the year.

The second half 2015 Consumer Price Index for Cincinnati-Hamilton is scheduled to be released in January 2016.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Cincinnati-Hamilton, Ohio-Ky.-Ind.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Dearborn and Ohio Counties in Indiana; Boone, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton Counties in Kentucky; and Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren Counties in Ohio.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
Expenditure category					
All items	223.680	224.519	222.788	-0.4	-0.8
All items (1967=100)	692.115	694.713	689.355	-	-
Food and beverages	216.670	219.340	220.267	1.7	0.4
Food	213.539	215.995	217.052	1.6	0.5
Food at home	210.195	213.434	214.125	1.9	0.3
Food away from home	222.206	223.400	225.292	1.4	0.8
Alcoholic beverages	241.219	246.780	245.699	1.9	-0.4
Housing	202.905	206.092	205.651	1.4	-0.2
Shelter	231.220	235.310	237.133	2.6	0.8
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	233.910	237.857	240.307	2.7	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	232.806	235.837	237.664	2.1	0.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	232.806	235.837	237.664	2.1	0.8
Fuels and utilities	220.651	228.500	214.231	-2.9	-6.2
Household energy	183.691	189.655	175.554	-4.4	-7.4
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	187.686	194.709	180.467	-3.8	-7.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	185.672	194.088	179.360	-3.4	-7.6
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	185.316	188.095	175.840	-5.1	-6.5
Household furnishings and operations	115.592	112.019	113.917	-1.4	1.7
Apparel	139.750	138.876	144.581	3.5	4.1
Transportation	215.548	209.692	198.886	-7.7	-5.2
Private transportation	212.176	206.193	195.056	-8.1	-5.4
Motor fuel	327.023	284.312	227.857	-30.3	-19.9
Gasoline (all types)	325.409	282.826	226.759	-30.3	-19.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	336.125	290.872	232.079	-31.0	-20.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾	314.508	275.255	222.136	-29.4	-19.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	278.792	246.999	202.371	-27.4	-18.1
Medical care	456.412	459.784	468.622	2.7	1.9
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	125.330	126.350	126.128	0.6	-0.2
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	135.702	135.904	133.292	-1.8	-1.9
Other goods and services	470.000	470.222	477.130	1.5	1.5
Commodity and service group					
All items	223.680	224.519	222.788	-0.4	-0.8
Commodities	182.361	179.315	175.929	-3.5	-1.9
Commodities less food & beverages	163.207	157.909	152.862	-6.3	-3.2
Nondurables less food & beverages	211.184	201.480	188.964	-10.5	-6.2
Durables	118.767	117.150	118.224	-0.5	0.9
Services	268.306	272.948	272.800	1.7	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	212.972	213.694	211.473	-0.7	-1.0
All items less shelter	222.844	222.389	219.231	-1.6	-1.4
Commodities less food	166.608	161.543	156.553	-6.0	-3.1
Nondurables	215.814	211.961	205.758	-4.7	-2.9
Nondurables less food	214.800	205.847	193.841	-9.8	-5.8
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	319.065	324.584	321.958	0.9	-0.8
Services less medical care services	251.875	256.580	255.961	1.6	-0.2
Energy	247.603	232.658	200.140	-19.2	-14.0
All items less energy	224.093	226.194	227.881	1.7	0.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
All items less food and energy	227.404	229.455	231.266	1.7	0.8

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.